

amendment offered by Mr. SANDERS of Vermont.

Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

WE NEED AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM ON THE MALL

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am once again introducing a bill to establish an African American Museum as part of the Smithsonian and to be located on the Mall in Washington, DC. I do this on the first day of black history month to highlight the need for and the importance of such a museum.

The story of black people in America has yet to be told. As a result, the understanding of American history remains incomplete.

African American history is an integral part of our country, yet the richness and variety of that history is little-known and little-understood.

Too few people know that Benjamin Banneker, an outstanding mathematician, along with Pierre L'Enfant, designed this city. Some of our Nation's greatest cowboys were black, including Bill Pickett and Deadwood Dick.

How many people know that Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was a pioneering heart surgeon in the last century? And that Ernest Everest Just, Percy Julian, and George Washington Carver were all outstanding scientists?

One of the greatest periods in America's cultural history was the Harlem renaissance. Writers, artists, poets, and photographers like Langston Hughes, James Van Der Zee, Countee Cullen, and Aaron Douglas were all part of the renaissance.

More recently, the civil rights movement changed the face of this country and inspired movements toward democracy and justice all over the world.

There is much, much more—and it must be told to all Americans. Until we understand the African American story in its fullness and complexity, we cannot understand ourselves as a Nation. We must know who we are and what we have done in order to truly consider where we must go from this day forward.

I am pleased and delighted that many of my colleagues have cosponsored this bill. I urge all my colleagues to support this worthwhile and important legislation.

HONORING MARGIE LEE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to a woman who is a resident of the Eleventh District of Virginia, Margie Lee. Margie is retiring

from the Social Security Administration after 37 years and 8 months of dedicated service. She has held many positions in her 37 years at the SSA, including acting area director for the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, district manager of the Alexandria, VA, Social Security District, assistant district manager in Alexandria, VA, and Wheaton, MD, District, and various other positions in the Washington, DC, and the Chicago area.

Her most recent assignment was as special projects coordinator out of the Chief Judges Office, Office of Hearings and Appeals, SSA. In recognition of her work Margie's awards include the Ewell T. Bartlett Memorial Award, 1990 for Humanitarian Service and the Commissioners Citation, the highest award given at SSA after serving as the Federal coordinator of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Margie has been a long-time resident of Reston and been very active in her community. She is a charter member of the Reston Chapter of the Links, Inc.; past president of Reston chapter, and serves on area and local committees. She is also a member of Jack and Jill, St. Augustine Catholic Church. Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Margie Lee for her hard work, dedication and many years of service at the Social Security Administration.

UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments, to ensure that the Federal Government pays the costs incurred by those governments in complying with certain requirements under Federal statutes and regulations, and to provide information on the cost of Federal mandates on the private sector, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening to congratulate my colleagues for passing H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Monday in my hometown of Clifton, NJ I met with local officials to talk about the importance of this legislation. Most of us know how difficult it is to be a local official, I can tell you I know first hand. I have had to deal with unfunded mandates first hand.

As we dealt with this bill on the House floor, the burden of unfunded Federal mandates did not go away. Local governments are still toiling under their yoke, losing money by the minute in manpower and paperwork complying with one-size-fits-all regulations from Congress.

Take my home State of New Jersey for example. Just recently we avoided what would

have amounted to one of the most costly mandates in the country. As a commuter State, New Jersey was faced with drastic measures to slow the growth of automobile emissions in order to comply with one of the most infamous unfunded mandates on the books, the Clean Air Act.

In order to meet the rigorous standards of the act, the Environmental Protection Agency informed New Jersey that it must use a new, unproven testing system. The State itself was not supposed to have any input on the testing method, but rather meekly submit to the commands of the EPA.

What did this do to New Jersey drivers? Well, it simply set up a system in which they could not win. First, they would have to take an emissions test that almost every car was expected to fail. Then, they would have to pay \$300 to \$400 each to repair their cars only to take the test again. Fortunately, the State was able to head off EPA sanctions at the last moment and avoid the imposition of such a test.

I will give another example. As I stated before, I came to Washington as a former local official, on both the municipal and county levels. On the county level, I met with special frustration when confronted with unfunded Federal mandates.

As the Passaic County Freeholder Board moved to restructure a government that, just like everywhere else, had its inefficiencies, we were continually confounded by obligations placed on us by Washington. I led the fight to reorganize the county health administration, and a little initiative and persistence paid off: I was able to shave \$107,000 from that department's budget. Due to similar efforts from my fellow Freeholders, we were able to reduce county spending by 7 percent in 1993.

But, as you may have already guessed, the Passaic County taxpayers could not directly reap the rewards of the frugal actions of the Freeholder Board. In 1993, we were actually forced to raise taxes. That part of our county budget that was mandated from above went up 10 percent, even faster than we could cut discretionary spending.

I am sure many of my colleagues have had similarly frustrating experiences. Stories like these have to stop, and I believe they soon will.

With the passage of H.R. 5, this House took a major step in the right direction. But the fight against unfunded mandates is far from over. You see, H.R. 5 is first and foremost an accountability measure.

There is nothing in this bill that says Congress may never pass another unfunded Federal mandate again, it only makes sure that Congress knows exactly how much its legislation costs. Because of this we have to remain vigilant over the next 2 years and continue in the spirit of H.R. 5 by refusing to pass the buck down the line.

I congratulate this body as a whole, my colleagues on the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, and especially the distinguished chairman of the committee, Mr. CLINGER, for their strong leadership on this vital issue. You have all done your country a great service today.